

Herald Literary Depot.
All the new and cheap literary publications of the day are for sale, wholesale and retail, at the Herald Office, northeast corner of Nassau and Fulton streets.

SPENCER'S CHANGING RESIDENCE.—Mr. Spencer, who is now very busy engaged in collecting facts connected with this subject, so as to be enabled to form a new system that will possess the sound principles and advantages of the Sub-Treasury of Mr. Van Buren, without any of its clumsy contrivances and nonsense. The Exchequer plan, formerly recommended by Mr. Tyler, and devised by Mr. Webster, will be laid aside entirely. In constructing the new financial policy, Mr. Spencer will have an especial eye to catch and to keep the next House of Representatives, which is largely democratic.

By this movement he expects to give a blow to the position of Mr. Van Buren that will puzzle his friends amazingly, and place them entirely *hors du combat*. Mr. Van Buren's only measure is the Sub-Treasury, and this Mr. Spencer will take from under his feet at once.

With regard to the recent movement of Mr. Webster, it is very doubtful whether Mr. Spencer will advise the President to adopt it at all. Its popularity is alarming—and the President and his Secretary wish to stand on their own measures and principles, like a tub on its own bottom, if they can get that bottom polished up in time for the next Congress. Mr. Spencer's great object is, with the whole force of the Administration, to break up the cause of Mr. Van Buren among the Democracy, and to open the door wide enough for General Cass, (who has the best claim,) or of Mr. Calhoun, (who has the next claim,) for it seems that no one thinks of Captain Tyler except John Jones and the man in the moon.

Mr. Webster's purpose, in his movement, is to demolish the chances of Mr. Clay among the Whigs, and to save the manufacturers from the consequences of the indecent and suicidal tariff agitation.

In such a position, Mr. Spencer and Mr. Webster are the master spirits—the one in the Cabinet—the other out of it—both regarding each other with fear, alarm, admiration, and a little jealousy. The only cool personages in these mighty matters are John Jones, who is too big a fool to know any thing, or Captain Tyler, who is too busy with his old bed-fellow, John Jones, to know what to do—or, ourselves, who play off one faction against another, one great man in opposition to another great man, as we would the pieces in a game of chess, merely to amuse the public—make the angels laugh, and the devils weep.

THE MESSAGE OF MAYOR MORRIS.—The annual message of the Mayor, presented to the Common Council, contains some valuable and salutary suggestions which, it is to be hoped, will receive the immediate sanction of the Legislative part of the Corporation.

The recommendation of organizing distinct departments, in accordance with the letter and spirit of the charter, for the performance of all executive business, will meet with the concurrence of every good citizen who desires to prevent the secret system of log rolling and double dealing, that is, and always has been practiced by members of the standing committees, who are vested with such immense power and patronage. This important change in the transaction of the executive business of the city has long been the theme of the liberal and honest members of the Common Council, and has as often been defeated by those who were desirous of filling their own pockets or those of their friends. The adoption of the plan suggested by the Mayor, in this organization of the executive departments, would decrease the city expenses, and secure to the public a full knowledge of its affairs under each department, which is not now to be obtained.

The Mayor's suggestions relative to a temporary reformation in the Police of our city, until time will admit of definite action upon a general reform by the Legislature, are correct and in perfect accordance with the views and opinions that have been so often reiterated in the columns of the Herald.

In discussing the street contract, he takes strong ground, and insists that the Common Council have legal power and right to annul or alter said contract whenever they may think proper. His plan of compelling citizens to sweep the streets opposite their own dwellings and places of business, is not practicable, and we have many reasons to believe that the only effectual plan after all, is for the corporation to sweep the streets on its own hook, and then the public can hold the members of the Common Council responsible for neglect of duty, in allowing the city to be in a filthy condition, and seek redress by refusing to re-elect them to perform the public business. To this complex plan will all the talk about street contracting come at last, as with no other can the public be secured from disease, contagion and death that might ensue from continued neglect on the part of contractors to cleanse the streets, piers and slips in a proper manner.

THE STREET CONTRACT.—The present position of the business of cleaning the streets is in rather a complicated "fix." The Democrats say they have the power to repeal the contract—the Whigs deny the power to repeal. This is a point of law which will very likely reach the Court of Errors, before it is decided.

Then again, the Democrats are divided among themselves as to what policy they will adopt in case of annulling the contract, which will of course be done. One party, at the head of which is Alderman Purdy, is for returning to the old system altogether—giving the whole business into the hands of the superintendent of streets—not even permitting Aldermen to interfere with the employment of such persons as the superintendent may think fit. Another party is for dividing the city into sixteen districts, and giving out the sweeping in sixteen separate contracts.

Another thing: As soon as the contract is repealed, it is understood that the present contractors will bring an action against the city every half month—when the money becomes due—to recover pay for cleaning the streets. And if it should turn out that the law is on their side, they may be able to recover pretty heavy damages; for they can bring plenty of evidence, not only from Mr. Bartlett Smith, but even from the speeches of Aldermen Leonard, Purdy, and other leading Democrats, that the work can be done for much less than \$64,500; and if so, their damages are equal to their present profits.

Then again, it may perhaps be proved that the present contract, in its operation, is injurious to the health of the city. If so, there can be no doubt about the right to repudiate. For no Common Council can have the right to legislate away the health of the city. At all events, it is positively affirmed—and there will be plenty of evidence to prove, too—that the contract has not been performed according to agreement, especially in the matter of sweeping the docks, markets, and many of the streets.

Such are some of the *questions vexatæ* now under examination and discussion. And we greatly fear that the people of this city will be as seriously vexed with continually accumulating dust and dirt as the Common Council are with the questions for decision. The people demand speedy action of some kind.

If it were done, when it is done, then 'twere well it were done quickly.

MOVEMENTS.—The Hon. Daniel Webster left for Boston yesterday afternoon, in the steamboat Worcester.

The Hon. George N. Briggs, M. C., of Berkshire, Mass., is at the Croton Hotel.

REMAINS OF SIR CHARLES BAGOT.—His remains arrived yesterday morning and were transferred on board the Warpage.

Important from Washington—New Views.

We understand that great preparations are already making in Washington, for the construction and adoption of a new line of policy, which will make its appearance at the opening of the next Session of Congress. The management of this important business, has been placed entirely by the President in the hands of John C. Spencer, the Secretary of the Treasury, and it will assume the form of a new financial system, especially adapted to the present circumstances of the country—and founded on the right principles of finance.

Mr. Spencer is now very busy engaged in collecting facts connected with this subject, so as to be enabled to form a new system that will possess the sound principles and advantages of the Sub-Treasury of Mr. Van Buren, without any of its clumsy contrivances and nonsense. The Exchequer plan, formerly recommended by Mr. Tyler, and devised by Mr. Webster, will be laid aside entirely. In constructing the new financial policy, Mr. Spencer will have an especial eye to catch and to keep the next House of Representatives, which is largely democratic.

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RECEPTION OF THE PRESIDENT.—The Committee

of the Common Council, of which Ald. Purdy is chairman, have dispatched communications to Mr. Secretary Spencer, and through him to the President, informing them of the recent action of the Common Council, and requesting to know, as early as possible, the intended route of the President and suite, and the time of their expected arrival in this city. An answer may be received to-day; and as soon as it comes, the Committee will immediately select apartments for him either at the Astor, the American, or at Howard's, and appoint his bed-fellow—for which birth there are two prominent candidates, his Honor the Mayor, and his excellency the President of the Board of Aldermen.

In the mean time there are several cliques of office-seekers in a terrible stew as to who shall have the keeping of the President. The way they will surround him on his arrival, will be a caution to dignitaries. As for the ultra Whigs, they assert that the President is a gentleman, and have determined, therefore, not to call on him at all while in the city. He will doubtless be politely received by the moderate politicians of all parties.

Messrs. French and Heiser have erected a landing-place upon the promenade outside of Castle Garden, where there is sufficient depth at low water for steamboats to land passengers. It will be an appropriate place for the President to land, and will doubtless be selected by the Committee.

POST OFFICE MOVEMENTS.—We understand that the Postmaster General, at the instigation of the Postmaster at Paterson, has prohibited the Railroad Company from carrying any newspapers on that route.

No previous Postmaster General attempted to interfere with the circulation of news, literature and intelligence, by the usual improved modes of communication, till the present able and liberal one came into power. The attempt made last winter to smuggle through Congress, a despotic and abominable law on this point, was not successful—but it seems that the same malign influence still exists in the department, and that this is the first trial to carry out the same purpose by a stretch of constructive authority.

It really would appear that some of the officials of John Tyler, have a species of insane ambition after the highest degree of unpopularity and public contempt. What can the administration gain by making such drivelling efforts against the circulation of the press?

THE STOCK EXCITEMENT IN WALL STREET.—The rise of stocks in Wall street, continues to be quite extraordinary. Yesterday the old Grand Gulf and the Vicksburg rose from nothing to 5 or 6. It is supposed that this rise is caused by a decision of the highest court of Mississippi, in favor of certain cotton judgments held by these concerns. All stocks, however, good, bad, or indifferent are affected. Fortunes are making rapidly, and men are beginning to get crazy. By July we will be all mad enough. The causes are generally attributed to the bank loans, and the competition of the two boards of brokers—perhaps partly from the general restoration of better times.

THE BOWLING GREEN FOUNTAIN.—We understand that a most beautiful and picturesque fountain will soon be erected in the Bowling Green—and we learn that it may be ready to play on the fourth of July.

The design of this fountain is quite original. The basin will be about ninety feet in diameter, lined with marble, variegated with rocks, and enlivened with water fowl sailing on the waves inside. The jet of water—or rather gush of Croton—will rise ninety feet up to heaven, from a formation of dark green rocks from the Palisades, of twenty feet high, and jetting out their angular edges in every direction. On these rocks the water will fall and form a circular cataract of the most beautiful and picturesque kind.

This conception is quite new, and originated with young Mr. Renwick, the son of the Professor. It will be one of the greatest ornaments to the city, and will impress every traveler from Europe, as he steps ashore in New York, with the natural magnificence of the "City of Fountains"—and "Miniature Niagaras."

PARK POND.—Alderman Purdy positively declares that something shall be done for this poor forlorn pond, at an early day. In the meantime, a small flock of geese will be allowed to paddle about the pond by way of amusing the boys. Visitors, and the public, are, however, requested not to call it a geese pond, as that would be too vulgar. We thought we saw a couple of geese in the pond yesterday; it was at a distance, however, and they might have been swans, or South American ducks. The question whether this is to be a fish pond, frog pond, goose pond, or duck pond, is important, and should be settled as early as possible.

CHEAP LITERATURE.—We should not be surprised to see this business burst pretty soon. Just stand under.

FASHIONABLE MAGAZINES.—Rather cooling down in these days. There is more puffery in them than any thing else.

WATERING PLACES.—Great resorts for slander, defamation and backbiting.

TREMBLING.—The ultra whigs are beginning to get terribly alarmed at the movements of Mr. Webster. Well they may be so.

A NEW PAGANI.—We understand that Mr. Wallace, a young musician, who is on his way to Europe from a tour round the world, through Europe, India, South America, and the Southern States, intends to give a concert before he leaves our shores. Mr. Wallace has performed at several private parties, and his skill and genius are considered perfectly unequalled—superior to any exhibitor ever heard before. He is a master, equally on the violin and the piano.

CONCERT.—Signor Paggi gives a Concert to-morrow evening at the Apollo Rooms. He will be assisted by Madame Sutton and other eminent artists. Paggi is highly celebrated for his skill and genius on the oboe, and will have a fine house, we hope.

MR. ABBOTT OF THE PARK THEATRE.—This gentleman, whose sudden illness we noticed yesterday, still lies in the green room at the Theatre, in a very dangerous state. His physicians will not allow him to be removed, and say it is very doubtful if he ever recovers. He is nearly insensible, or wandering in his mind, although he recognizes his wife. It is his second attack of apoplexy. Mr. Shaw performed the part of Richmond for him last evening.

THE GREAT WESTERN was seen on the 27th inst., in No. 66, going ahead in fine style, by Capt. Doan, of the ship Cotton Planter, at this port from Havre.

FAIR, FOUR FEET, AND FAT.—There is a little girl now exhibiting at the New York Museum, 6 years old—4 feet high—and 240 pounds weight—Tom Thumb is going to make love to her, and, if Barnum will consent, why, marry her—and join the Fouries.

NEW WORK.—Harper & Brothers have just issued "The Days of Queen Mary," in a 12mo. volume, with engravings, price twenty-five cents. It is a sketch of transactions which occurred in England during the reign of Queen Mary, especially of the persecutions for the sake of religion, which were so numerous. For sale at this office.

CHATHAM THEATRE.—This house was well filled last night, to witness the humorous performances of Yankee Hill, who seems to improve in his style of delineating the Yankee character on each successive engagement. He appears this evening in two of his best pieces. Mr. Wood is also playing at this theatre.

THE Hon. Mr. Fox, Minister of Her Britannic Majesty, and suite, arrived in this city yesterday evening from Washington, and have taken rooms at the Exchange Hotel.—Baltimore American, May 30.

HORRIBLE ATTEMPT AT MURDER AND SUICIDE.

The upper part of our city has been the scene of a strange and horrible attempt at murder and suicide. A man, named David McKenzie, a laborer, a native of Scotland, returned to his home, at the corner of Astor and Broadway, where he rents a room, at about nine o'clock on Monday night, and shortly after Mr. Jackson heard the screams of the wife. He hastened to her relief, and met her coming from the cellar with her throat cut in a shocking manner. She told him that McKenzie had attempted to murder her, and begged his assistance. He tried to assist her, and there stood the husband in the middle of the floor, with a fearful gash in his throat, from which the blood flowed fast—he appeared perfectly calm and collected, and conversed freely with his wife, and his wife's throat. Mr. Jackson called the watch sent for Doctor Chatham, who soon sewed up and bandaged the gashes, and had McKenzie taken to the watch-house. The wife, however, was so badly hurt, that she never recovered, and died in the watch-house, and McKenzie was committed to the watch-house, and there stood the husband in the middle of the floor, with a fearful gash in his throat, from which the blood flowed fast—he appeared perfectly calm and collected, and conversed freely with his wife, and his wife's throat. Mr. Jackson called the watch sent for Doctor Chatham, who soon sewed up and bandaged the gashes, and had McKenzie taken to the watch-house. The wife, however, was so badly hurt, that she never recovered, and died in the watch-house, and McKenzie was committed to the watch-house, and there stood the husband in the middle of the floor, with a fearful gash in his throat, from which the blood flowed fast—he appeared perfectly calm and collected, and conversed freely with his wife, and his wife's throat. 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